

No.

Generation

W. C. Stewart

admitted March 7th 1820

W. S. Leonard

March 11th 1850

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On Generation

Generation has been the subject of investigation, to the most eminent Physiologists. Yet so mysterious is it, that a few facts only have been established. 1st That the Ovaria are the seat of Conception. and 2^d That Conception cannot take place, without the fecundating influence of the Semen Masculinum.

These being indisputably confirmed; it remains still to be discovered how the semen reached the Ovaria.

I shall confine my remarks to the Generation of the Human Species, with a few references to other Animals.

That Theory, which supposes the semen thrown by the Penis into the Uterus, and conveyed thence by the Fallopian tubes to the Ovaria; has in my opinion, the greatest portion of evidence on its side.

I shall first endeavor to show, that the Semen is injected into the Uterus by the Penis, and carried to

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the Ovaria by the Fallopian tubes: and lastly make some observations, relative to the process of generation.

From a superficial view of the Genital organs of both sexes, we would suppose it impossible for the Semen to enter the Uterus, much less reach the Ovaria. But by an attentive examination of the anatomy of those parts, "the Vagina is found more narrow at its beginning than it is further inward: the action of its muscles confined almost entirely to its mouth, consequently, the grasp of the Vagina is most powerful on the root of the Penis, but the muscles of the latter being more numerous and situated there, greatly diminish if not wholly destroy the grasp of the former. Moreover in the act of Coition the greatest pressure is on the upper part of the Penis, and very little on the lower through which the Urithra passes. The liquor of the Prostate gland, which precedes the emission of the Semen, seems evidently designed to destroy its tenacity, and thereby facilitate its passage.

* See Wistars Anatomy Vol. 3 Page 195 and Page 196

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The Rugae on the inner surface of the Vagina are supposed to impede the progress of the semen, but they "do not extend beyond the external half of the canal: on the internal half part, or that nearest the Uterus, the surface is smooth."¹⁰³ It is obvious from this arrangement that they are not intended for impediments, or they would have extended to the Os Uteri.

The Os Tinea as seen in the dead subject, of an oval form, and not situate in the axis of the Vagina is completely impervious to the Semen: though it is not probable that it retains the same shape and situation in the living subject during Copulation. Examples of other Organs being equally incapable of performing their functions, when not excited are to be seen in the Penis, and Fallopian tube. The latter whose pombriated extremity lies relaxed in the Pelvis, at the time of a fruitful Coition becomes stiff and rises to receive the contents of the Vesicle. The Urethra of the Male whose canal is flaccid,

¹⁰³ See Wistar's Anatomy Vol. 2. Page 196

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and oblique when the Penis is not in a state of erection, renders the passage of the semen impracticable. Nevertheless there are no facts in Physiology better established, than that the ovum is conveyed by the Fallopian tube to the Uterus, and that the semen passes through the Urethra. May not a similar cause, change the oval form of the Os Tenua to a circular, and adapt its orifice to that of the Penis?

The Menses appear intended not only to inform the female, that she is of an age competent for the procreation of her species, but to keep her in a fit state for Conception: by dilating the neck of the Uterus, softening the hard lips of the Os Tenua, destroying all obstructions that may be formed by mucus, and rendering the Uterus and its appendages more susceptible to the stimulus of the male organs. In testimony of this, the assertion of Accoucheurs that women conceive generally soon after Menstruation, may be adduced.

Besides the Stoppage of the Os Uteri by mucus, as

and of which a full and complete history has been given
in the preceding volume. The present volume is a continuation
of the same, and contains a full and complete history of the
rest of the world, from the time of the first settlement
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soon as conception has taken place, tends to confirm it.

In the canal of the neck of the Uterus, are many Stria or wrinkles which might have prevented the entrance of the semen into the cavity of that Viscus, were not glands placed in the grooves for the purpose of secreting mucus to fill up those wrinkles, and lubricate the canal, which is kept from accumulating in such quantity as to obstruct the passage, by the monthly discharge from the uterus, during the unimpregnated state of the female.

Having thus shown, that the entrance of the semen into the Uterus is not impracticable; ~~and~~ of its existence in that organ, we have the respectable authorities of Hunter, Haller, and Morgagni.

Let us proceed to the consideration of its passage to the Ovaria and here the greatest difficulty presents itself, the only medium of communication between the Uterus and Ovaria, being the Fal

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Fallopian tubes whose orifices next the Uterus, are not larger than a hog's bristle through which the semen cannot pass, as it is thrown into the Uterus. But if we compare the diameters of the Fallopian tube, and Vas deferens, admit the assertion of Richerand, that "the human Semen is never emitted in a state of purity, that is, such as is prepared by the Testicles," and allow that the Fallopian tube is endowed with the function of an absorbent; (Nor will this two-fold action be any objection, as the same may be seen in the duct of the gall bladder,) the difficulty vanishes.

For the propagation of the human species, and other animals also, the congress of the sexes is necessary; in the act of copulation, the irritation gradually increases: by this wise ordination the Os

* See *Virchow's Archiv* Vol. I Page 194 and Page 195

† For this I am indebted to Dr. J. J. Davis who when demonstrating the viscera of the Woman this Night suggested it

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Tunica is allowed time to change from the oval to the circular form, and to suit its orifice to that of the Penis; this sympathy is extended to the whole of the Uterus, Fallopian tubes, and Ovaries.

The glands in the neck of the Uterus, pour out their fluids to fill up the wrinkles, and facilitate the progress of the semen.

At the moment of conjunction, the organs of the Male being in the highest degree of excitement, and the apertures of the Os *Tunica*, and Urethra of the Male in apposition. The functions of the other parts of the systems of both sexes, become diminished in their energies, whilst those of the Generals are so greatly increased as to produce a universal Conception.

The semen having arrived in the Uterus, the Fallopian tube commences its operation as an absorbent, separates the genuine fluid of the Testes, from that of the *Vesicula Seminalis*,

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and conveys it to the Ovaria. May not the fluid of the Vesicula Seminalis, excite in the Uterus that action by which the Decidua is produced?

If the actual contact of the male Semen, and Ovum of the female is not requisite, why do we see within the egg shell of the fowl, the Cicatrix, which is asserted by a Physiologist of great eminence, to be the product of the Male; or why are the ova of the female frog unprolific, unless sprinkled with the Semen of the Male?

In what manner a Human Being is formed from the admixture of the fluids of the Male and Female, is known only to thee, O thou infinitely wise Creator.













